

1984

## Entire Issue Volume 6, Number 1

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# The Primary Source

A Quarterly Publication of The Society of Mississippi Archivists

Volume Six

February 1984

Number One

## 1984 ANNUAL MEETING PLANS ANNOUNCED

Are you willing to be titillated, agitated and educated? If the answer is yes, come to The Society of Mississippi Archivists' sixth annual meeting, scheduled for April 30 - May 1, 1984, at the Gulf Park Conference Center, Long Beach, Mississippi.

**Archives and Society.** David Gracy, President of the Society of American Archivists, will address the issue that he has chosen to focus on during his year in office - the image and stereotype that non-archivists have of archivists and archival work. In June, the SAA Executive Council established a task force on Archives and Society to study and recommend ways to increase public awareness, understanding, appreciation and support of archives and record keeping. As these are some of the same concerns expressed by many of you at past meetings, you should be prepared to join in a lively discussion at the end of this session. h t holmes, Manuscript Curator, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, will also address this issue.

**The Local Records Problem.** Richard Cox, former City Archivist, Baltimore, Maryland, and now Head, Archives and Records Division, Alabama Department of Archives and History, will give us a national perspective on local government records programs. Joining him in this session will be Ray Mabus, Mississippi State Auditor, who was interviewed by The Primary Source for the November 1983 issue. Recently inaugurated, Mr. Mabus is in the process of implementing records management procedures and will share his experiences to date with us. Frank Walker, Hattiesburg City Archivist; Rufus Ward, West Point attorney; and Dennis Dollar, former state representative and sponsor of the open records law, will also participate in this session. Some of the issues and problems discussed in this session should be familiar to many of you from discussions at previous meetings and from your knowledge of the report on the Mississippi Historical Records Needs Assessment Project. Be prepared to offer some positive measures that the Society might take to move ahead on this issue.

**Collection Management.** Written collection policies and issues involved in collecting will be discussed by Dr. William D. Boyd, School of Library Service, University of Southern Mississippi; Terry Latour, Archivist, University of Southern Mississippi; and Carol West, Director, Mississippi College Law Library. If any attending have a written collection policy, we hope that they will share it and their experiences in its development and use.

(Continued on Page 2.)



The Primary Source is a quarterly publication of news and ideas produced by the Society of Mississippi Archivists, a non-profit organization of professional archivists and interested persons. Subscription to The Primary Source is included in the Society membership dues. Membership information is printed on the last page of each newsletter.

Your contributions are welcome. Write The Primary Source, P.O. Box 1151, Jackson, MS 39205.

Deadlines for inclusion are:

- #1 (February) -- January 31
- #2 (May) -- April 30
- #3 (August) -- July 31
- #4 (November) -- October 31

.....Editor  
Martha Sparrow...Assistant Editor  
h t holmes.....Assistant Editor

ISSN 0741-6563

## 1984 Plans, cont.

**Archival Reference.** Marjorie Wheeler and Julia Young, University of Southern Mississippi adjunct instructors, will role play a reference interview and will give us their perspectives on a researcher's use of archival collections and the role of the reference archivist. Ms. Wheeler is completing her work toward a doctorate in history from the University of Virginia and has spent countless hours in various archives and libraries in several states. Ms. Young brings us her experience as a working archivist and instructor of archival science.

**SMA.** The final session of the program will pick up a discussion started at last year's business meeting - the direction the Society should take in the future. Bernice Bell, Archivist, Jackson State University and SMA Vice-Presi-

dent, will recount the Society's history and will moderate a panel discussion on SMA in the next decade. Julia Young; Linda Overman, Conservator, Department of Archives and History; and Lois Upham, School of Library Service, University of Southern Mississippi, will be members of this panel.

**Libations.** Dean Onva K. Boshears, Jr., and the University of Southern Mississippi School of Library Service will host a reception after the last session on Monday, April 30. Here's to beautiful weather, congenial fellowship and enlightening discussions. See you in Long Beach!

Linda Lou Overman, Chair  
1984 Program Committee



## ACCESSIONS

### Mississippi Department of Archives and History

#### Government Records

Department of Archives and History. 1979. 2 c.f.  
Executive Director's Correspondence.

State Building Commission. 1962 - 1963. 1 c.f.  
Minute Book, #20.

#### Special Collections

Washington County World War I Scrapbook. c. 1916 - 1919. 1 vol.  
A scrapbook which documents Washington County's World War I effort. The volume has an alphabetical name index and a table of contents. Contains newspaper clippings, photographs and pamphlets.

Lowndes County World War I Scrapbook. c. 1917 - c. 1919. 1 vol.  
A scrapbook which documents Lowndes County's World War I effort. Contains newspaper clippings, photographs and pamphlets.

Ward (Benjamin F.) Family Papers. c. 1890 - c. 1905. 1 c.f.  
Family correspondence of Benjamin F. Ward, his wife and son. Presented by Mary McMillan, Minter City.

Coulet (Armand) Collection. c. 1932 - 1980. 3 c.f.  
Financial file pertaining to Broadway show tours in Jackson, photographs of famous musical and stage stars who performed in Jackson, French cookbook, sheet music and scrapbooks of Armand Coulet, Jackson impresario. Presented by Magnolia Coulet, Jackson.

Boyd Family Papers. c. 1860 - 1975. .33 c.f.  
Presented by Mrs. Samuel T. Pilkinton, Jr., Columbus, on behalf of the Colonial Dames of America.

Griffith (B. W.) and Westbrook (Rondo A.) Papers, Accretion. 1876 - 1958. 12 items.  
Correspondence, speech, typescript, broadside, certificate and photograph belonging to B. W. Griffith or Rondo A. Westbrook. Includes letter from Laurence C. Jones of Piney Woods Country Life School and an address made at Piney Woods by B. W. Griffith. Presented by Genevieve W. Barksdale, Ocean Springs.

Gill (William Lampton) Papers. c. 1960s - 1980. 21 c.f.  
Papers of William Lampton Gill, Jackson Architect. The collection contains papers relating to Gill's architectural work, including architectural drawings, correspondence and photographs. In addition, there are a small amount of personal papers regarding Gill's activities in various historical organizations, including the Society of Mississippi Archivists and the Mississippi Historical Society.



ACCESSIONS

Darden (Frances Witty) Collection. 1844; 1851 - 1852; 1858; n.d. 7 items.

A collection of family letters of the Bennett/Jenkins/Snell families. The letters deal with family matters, health and crops. Of particular interest is a letter from Malcolm McNeilly to Edward Bennett of Colbert, Miss. The letter contains views on national affairs and particularly on the annexation of Texas. Other letters give vivid descriptions of a plantation in north Mississippi and decorative plantings.

Presented by Frances Witty Darden, Pass Christian.

Larrabee (Elizabeth Hatheway) Letter. July 9, 1842. 1 item.

Lengthy letter written by Elizabeth Hatheway Larrabee to her brother. The letter contains a vivid description of a trip from Holly Springs to Pontotoc in 1842, descriptions of life-styles of individuals with whom Larrabee stayed during the trip. She describes the land and life-styles in Pontotoc. Larrabee concludes her letter by discussing her plans to settle in Pontotoc, to buy land and a home, and the help that "Mr. Draper" (Lyman Draper) is giving them.

Purchased from Daniel J. Gatti, Washington, D. C.

Wood (Luther) Promissory Note. June 2, 1841. 1 item.

Promissory note from Luther Wood to John Webb for hire of five slaves. The note was executed January 1, 1849, and filed June 2, 1841. Contains names of slaves. Filed and mailed to G. M. Martin, Chancery Clerk, Columbia, Tenn. Postmarked "Canton, MI Jun 5." Stampless cover, Madison County, MS seal embossed on cover. Presented by Ann E. Williams, Lawrence, Kansas.

McFall (C. R.) Letter. October 16, 1834. 1 item.

Letter written to Dr. L. Sanders of Rodney from C. R. McFall of Keene, Kentucky. The letter makes reference to papers from the clerk's office and the possibility of McFall forming a partnership with Sanders in Mississippi.

Presented by the Ohio Historical Society, Columbus, Ohio.

Johnson (Andrew and Elizabeth) Papers. c. 1840s. 1 inch.

Collection of slave receipts, tax receipts and correspondence of this Copiah County family. There are numerous slave receipts documenting transactions of slave ownership which lists names of slaves. The correspondence primarily is written during the Civil War. The writer describes troop movements and engagements. Of special interest is a letter written from Atlanta in which he surmises Sherman will never take Atlanta. In the same letter he refers to runaways in Jones County.

Presented by Hubert Bowman, Warner Robbins, Georgia.

Humphreys (Benjamin Grubb) Notes. n.d. 1 item.

A copy of *Four Years with General Lee* by Walter H. Taylor. The publication contains handwritten margin notes by Benjamin Grubb Humphreys. The margin notes either dispute or expand upon statements made by Taylor in the text.

Presented by Frank Everett, Jr., Vicksburg.



ACCESSIONS

- Fields (N. S.) Civil War Letters. 1862 - 1863. 5 items.  
Three letters written by N. S. Fields to his wife shortly before his death during the Civil War. Fields served in Company F, 30th Miss. Regt., Mississippi Volunteers. He was killed January 23, 1863. The letters contain information regarding his hospitalization in Chattanooga, Tennessee, and various battles. Included in the collection is an inventory ("Lists of Property belonging to the Estate of Norman S. Fields dcd") and an undated letter written from Muldory, Arkansas, to Sue.  
Presented by Maurice R. Black, Carrollton.
- Campbell (Clarice T.) Papers, Accretion. 1948 - 1983. 2 inches.  
Correspondence and printed matter regarding Campbell's Vietnam War and military protest through non-payment of telephone tax; Korean child "adoption" program in the early 1950s; and correspondence with West German families in the late 1940s and early 1950s. The printed matter includes an article on Campbell in the *Commercial Appeal* and an article on predetermined death written by Campbell in *Unitarian Universalist World*.  
Presented by Clarice T. Campbell, Holly Springs.
- Mississippi State University  
Mitchell Memorial Library
- Carmichael (Gilbert E.) Papers, Accretion. 1975 - 1983. 3 c.f.  
Files and videotapes concerning Carmichael's 1983 campaign for lieutenant governor of Mississippi.  
Closed.  
Presented by Gilbert E. Carmichael.
- Enon Baptist Church History. 1983. 1 item.  
Thirty-three page history of the Enon Baptist Church in Winston County, Mississippi.
- McGehee (James Stewart) Autobiography. c. 1903 - 1904. 4 items.  
Typescript of "Rambles in Autobiography," written by McGehee, who was born in 1860 in Wilkinson County, Miss. Among the topics are McGehee's childhood in Mississippi and Louisiana, his schooling in Virginia and his work with the railroad in Mississippi and in the grain trade in St. Louis.  
Presented by Malcolm Stewart Ware.
- Montgomery (G. V. "Sonny") Papers, Accretion. 160 c.f.  
Office files of Montgomery, who was first elected to the U. S. House of Representatives in 1966 and is currently serving his ninth term.  
Closed.  
Presented by G. V. Montgomery.
- Portraits of the Rural Churches of Oktibbeha County, Mississippi: A Bicentennial Album. 1976. 1 item.  
Album containing photographs of churches and maps showing their locations in Oktibbeha County, Mississippi. Compiled by Richard



ACCESSIONS

A. Marshall.  
Open.

Richardson (Bobby G.) Collection. c. 1975 - 1983. 55 c.f.  
Papers of the Highway Commissioner of the Northern District of Mississippi.  
Presented by Bobby G. Richardson.

Stennis (John C.) Collection, Accretion. 1981 - 1982. 19 c.f.; 18 vols.  
Office files, 18 volumes - voting records and memos.

Whitehead (Alan) Collection. n.d. 1 item.  
Stephen D. Lee carte de viste.  
Collection open.  
Presented by Alan Whitehead.

The Mississippi Socialist. November 15, 1916. 1 item.  
Photocopy of volume 1, number 10, of the Socialist newspaper published in Kilmichael, Mississippi, and edited by J. H. Merton.  
Collection open.  
Loaned for copying by William M. Jacks.

The University of Mississippi

Williams Memorial Library

Financial Records of Mercantile Establishment in Water Valley, Mississippi. c. 1896 - 1912. 40 ledgers.  
Ledgers, journals and business records of an unidentified store in Water Valley at the turn of the century.  
Presented by Mr. Paul Parker, Water Valley, Miss.

McLean (George) Collection. 2.5 linear feet.  
The unprocessed collection of the private papers of the distinguished late publisher of the Tupelo Daily Journal.

Douglas (Ellen) Collection, Accretion. 2 ff.  
Four manuscript drafts of "Jesse" from Douglas' second novel, Black Cloud, White Cloud. The drafts show in textbook fashion the evolution of a literary work from an early state to a publishable form.

Johnson (John Wesley) Collection. c. 1870 - 1910. 2 linear feet.  
Holograph diaries and correspondence of J. W. Johnson (1852-1911), a graduate of the University of Mississippi and later professor of physics and astronomy at the University. Johnson was very active in the alumni association of the University.  
Open.  
Presented by Ms. Gladys Lail, Alexandria, Virginia.

Henley (Beth) Collection. 1977-1982. 4 linear feet.  
An extensive collection of original typescripts and manuscript notebooks of Henley's work. Included in the collection are "Crimes



ACCESSIONS

of the Heart," "Moonwatcher," "Am I Blue?," "Miss Firecracker," "Parade," and "The Wake of Jamey Foster."

Hannah (Barry) Manuscripts, Accretion. 4 linear feet.

Typesetting typescripts for Hannah's latest novel, *The Tennis Handsome*. Manuscript drafts for eighteen Hannah stories, many of which were printed in *Esquire* magazine, some later reappearing in *Airships*.

Faulkner - Brodsky Collection.

Various screenplay treatments by William Faulkner for the "DeGaulle Story." Typescripts with a few holographic corrections by Faulkner.

Open.

Presented by Louis Daniel Brodsky, Farmington, Missouri.

University of Southern Mississippi

McCain Graduate Library

American Tung Oil Institute Records, Accretion. 1964 - 1970. 11 cubic feet.

Research records, progress reports, formula specifications, patent records, organization by-laws, minute books, legal records, financial records and correspondence. The American Tung Oil Institute and its predecessor organizations conducted scientific research into the properties of tung oil and conducted efforts to promote its use.

Collection is open.

Presented by University of Southern Mississippi Polymer Science Department.

Camp (D. A.) Letters. 1862 - 1863. 7 items.

Letters from D. A. Camp to his wife, Anna, in Mulberry, Georgia, dated between August 1862 and April 1863.

Open.

Presented by Miss Bessie Jenkins.

Camp Shelby Mississippi Reveille. January 1941 - December 1944. 4 vols.

Weekly newspaper of the U. S. Army base, Camp Shelby, located ten miles south of Hattiesburg during World War II.

Carroll (Joseph Charles) Autograph Book. 1841 - 1920. 1 vol.

More than 75 autographs acquired by Joseph Charles Carroll (most of which he acquired in prison) between 1841 and 1920. Over sixty of the autographs are those of Civil War generals; others include Presidents Johnson, Buchanan and Grant; Daniel Webster; the first Japanese ambassador to the United States, c. 1869; and General John J. Pershing.

Open.

Presented by Dr. Andrew Carroll.

Cook (Joseph Anderson) Papers. 1879 - 1937. 3 ff.



## ACCESSIONS

Miscellaneous letters, newspaper clippings and memorabilia of Joe Cook and his children.

Partially open.

Presented by Joseph Raspilair, Jr., and Mrs. Emily C. Bickerstaff.

Giani (Bertha) Religious Document. 1737. 1 item.

Religious document written in Italian and on vellum by Pope Clement XII concerning the granting of an indulgence.

Open.

Presented by Mrs. Bertha Giani.

## A PRESERVATION COMMERCIAL

The inherent acidity of modern paper causes most books to become so brittle as to be unusable after fifty years. Since January 1981, the National Library/Public Archives of Canada has been using a nonaqueous deacidification solution to neutralize the acid in bound volumes in an attempt to extend their life to centuries, rather than decades. This nonaqueous solution, Wei T'o (pronounced Why Toe) was developed by Dr. Richard D. Smith at the University of Chicago prior to 1968.

Books to be treated according to his method are placed in wire baskets in a pressurized tank, and the tank is flooded with alkaline chemicals dispersed in Freon 12, a Dupont product which becomes liquid under pressure. Once the paper in the books is completely wet, the pressure in the tank is reduced and the Freon 12 evaporates, depositing the neutralizing chemicals through the volumes. The dry, treated books are removed and the Freon 12 is recovered and condensed for use in preparing new solution.

As many as thirty books an hour can be treated at a cost of about \$5.00 per book. Aqueous deacidification, on the other hand, which involves taking the books completely apart, immersing the pages in water and alkaline chemicals and rebinding them after treatment, costs as much as \$200.00 per book and takes days or even weeks to completion.

The American Chemical Society has selected the Wei T'o process as an example of the benefits that chemistry and chemical engineering bring to our society. They are preparing a television news release featuring the Wei T'o nonaqueous book deacidification system as used in the National Library/Public Archives in Ottawa. The two minute tape will be released to all cable and major television networks in the United States in late March. It is estimated that 50,000,000 people will see this announcement.



## NEWS NOTES

### EVANS MEMORIAL LIBRARY, ABERDEEN

The Historical Division has been rearranged for better protection of the manuscript collections and for more efficient use of space. During the past four months, visitors from ten states and twenty Mississippi towns have conducted their research in the manuscript section of the library....A welcome addition to the library is a glass case to house the Pollard-Wente Collection. (See TPS, August 1983). Ivan H. Wente of Hot Springs, Arkansas, donated the case to house these materials which he had presented to the library....Several Aberdeen events were enhanced by the use of photographs from the Historical Division. Townspeople used the photographs for the anniversary of the Methodist Church, for a quilting show, as subject matter for artists who painted scenes from the past, for club meetings, and for newspaper articles on the old city cemetery. Sam Crawford, whose new book on Aberdeen, *Something Good about the Thirties*, has just been published, used the photographs in his book. Mr. Crawford is the husband of Helen Crawford, manuscript librarian for the Historical Division.

### MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

Mark Barnes, archivist with the Official Records Section, moved to Iowa in January to accept an archival position with the Iowa state archives. Mark was employed as a temporary manuscript curator by MDAH in 1981 during the Historical Records Needs Assessment Project. At the completion of that Project, he transferred to the Official Records Section....Lisa Buechele has been employed as project archivist for the NHPRC-funded Newsfilm Project. Lisa began work February 1 and brings to the Project an extensive background of subject access experience....Mickey Hennen was awarded a Colonial Dames Scholarship to support his attendance at the Modern Archives Institute, National Archives and Records Service, in January.

### MISSISSIPPI GENEALOGICAL/LOCAL HISTORY BIBLIOGRAPHY UNDER COMPILATION

A bibliography of Mississippi genealogy and local history is being compiled by Caroline Killens and Tom Henderson and will be published by the Reprint Company. The bibliography will include monographs, journal articles and some unpublished material. The compilers would like to hear from anyone knowing of unpublished genealogical resources such as indexes or abstracts of local records. For further information contact Caroline Killens, Cook Library, USM, Box 5053 Southern Station, Hattiesburg, Miss. 39406.



## TWO SMA MEMBERS RECEIVE BENTLEY HISTORICAL LIBRARY APPRAISAL FELLOWSHIPS

The Bentley Historical Library of the University of Michigan announces the award of seven fellowships to support research on appraisal problems of modern historical documentation. The fellowship program, now in its second year, is funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. The recipients are Paul Anderson, Washington University School of Medicine; John F. Bluth, Archives of Recorded Sound, Brigham Young University; Meyer Fishbein, The American University; Jacqueline Goggin, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress; Terry S. Latour, University of Southern Mississippi; Gerald J. Munoff, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives; and Roy Turnbaugh, Illinois State Archives.

The range of proposed studies includes analyses of the appraisal process for particular types of documentation (e.g., the relationship between state archivists and records managers), and an investigation of use studies as a factor in the formulation of appraisal policies. The seven Fellows will be in residence in Ann Arbor for one to three months beginning in early June 1984.

Fellows were selected upon the recommendation of an advisory committee composed of Dr. Margaret Child, assistant director, Smithsonian Institution Libraries; Dr. Joan Hoff-Wilson, executive secretary, Organization of American Historians; Dr. Philip P. Mason, director, Walter P. Reuther Library, Wayne State University; and Dr. Robert M. Warner, Archivist of the United States, National Archives and Records Service. Project directors for the Research Seminar on Modern Documentation are Dr. Francis X. Blouin, director, and William K. Wallach, assistant director of the Bentley Library.

For a related project also funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Bentley Historical Library has invited Julia M. Young, School of Library Service, University of Southern Mississippi, and Frank Boles, Bentley Library (now on leave with the National Endowment for the Humanities) to continue their study of the appraisal of university administrative records. Ms. Young and Mr. Boles began their research last summer during the first year of the fellowship program. Marjorie Barritt of the Bentley staff will also join the 1984 research seminar to explore the appraisal process for personally identifiable records found in a university setting (e.g., student records, medical files, and psychological and education counseling files). Student records will be her primary focus in this multi-phase study.

Further information about the 1984 program can be obtained from Francis X. Blouin, Jr., or William K. Wallach, Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109-2113.

(NB: Julia Young and Terry Latour are both members of the Society of Mississippi Archivists. Paul Anderson was a founding member of the Society.)



**SOCIETY OF MISSISSIPPI ARCHIVISTS**  
**Sixth Annual Meeting**  
**April 30 - May 1, 1984**  
**Gulf Park Conference Center**  
**Long Beach, Mississippi**

**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

**Sunday, April 29**

**4:00-7:00**

**Check In**  
**Lobby, Hardy Hall**

**Monday, April 30**

**7:30-8:30**

**Breakfast - Hardy Hall Cafeteria**

**8:00-5:00**

**Check In**

**8:00-9:00**

**Registration - Lobby**

**Morning Sessions**

**(All sessions will be held in Room 302, Hardy Hall)**

**9:00-9:15**

**Opening Remarks**  
**William Hanna, President**  
**Society of Mississippi Archivists**

**9:15-10:30**

**Collection Development: Some Considerations**  
**Moderator: Lynn Mueller, Special Collections**  
**Reference Librarian**  
**Mississippi State University**

**Development of a Collection Policy**  
**Dr. William D. Boyd, Associate Professor**  
**School of Library Service**  
**University of Southern Mississippi**

**Some Ethical and Financial Responsibilities of**  
**Manuscript Collecting**  
**Terry S. Latour, Archivist**  
**University of Southern Mississippi**

**Legal Considerations of Collecting**  
**Carol West, Director**  
**Law Library**  
**Mississippi College**

**10:30-10:45**

**Break**

**10:45-12:00**

**Both Sides of the Desk: Archival Reference**  
**Service**  
**Moderator: Martha Sparrow, Archivist**  
**Mississippi University for Women**

**The Use of Archival Collections: A Researcher's**  
**Perspective**  
**Marjorie Wheeler, Adjunct Instructor**



Department of History  
University of Southern Mississippi

The Role of the Reference Archivist  
Julia M. Young, Adjunct Instructor  
School of Library Service  
University of Southern Mississippi

12:15-1:15

Lunch - Cafeteria

**Afternoon Session**

1:30-4:30

**The Problem with Local Records: Not Just a Local Problem**

Moderator: Elbert R. Hilliard, Director  
Mississippi Department of Archives and History

**"Government Records, Private Papers: How Safe Are They?"**

An audio-visual presentation on the Mississippi Historical Records Needs Assessment Project, sponsored by the Board of Trustees of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History and the State Historical Records Advisory Board, Elbert R. Hilliard, State Historical Records Coordinator

**Local Government Records and the Archival Profession in the United States: A National View**

Richard Cox, Head, Archives and Records Division  
Alabama Department of Archives and History

**Local Government Records Programs: A Matter of Accountability**

The Honorable Ray Mabus  
Auditor of the State of Mississippi

**Break**

**From the Field: Mississippi's Local Records Program**

Frank N. Walker, Archivist  
City of Hattiesburg

**Local Records: How Do We Use Them?**

Rufus Ward, Attorney  
West Point, Mississippi

**The Open Records Law and Local Records: Can We Find Them to Open Them?**

Dennis Dollar  
Former Member, Mississippi House of Representatives



5:30-7:00

**Attitude Adjustment - Room 342, Hardy Hall**  
Sponsored by The School of Library Service,  
University of Southern Mississippi, Onva K.  
Boshears, Jr., Dean.

**Tuesday, May 1**

7:30-8:30

**Breakfast - Cafeteria**

**Morning Sessions**

9:00-10:30

**Archives and Society: The Image of the Archivist  
and Archival Work**  
Moderator: Howard Lowell, Director  
Oklahoma State Archives

**The National View**  
David Gracy, President  
Society of American Archivists

**The Provincial View**  
h t holmes, Manuscript Curator  
Mississippi Department of Archives and History

10:30-10:45

**Break**

10:45-12:00

**Seven Years Together: Quo Vadis? - A Panel  
Discussion**  
Moderator: Bernice Bell, Vice-President  
Society of Mississippi Archivists

Julia Young  
Linda Overman, Conservator  
Mississippi Department of Archives and History  
Lois Upham, Assistant Professor  
School of Library Service  
University of Southern Mississippi

12:15-1:15

**Lunch - Cafeteria**

1:30-

**Annual Business Meeting - Room 302**  
Presiding: William Hanna, President  
Society of Mississippi Archivists



**TUESDAY SESSIONS:** Archives and Society  
SMA in the Next Decade  
Annual Business Meeting

Accommodations and sessions will all be in Hardy Hall, Gulf Park Conference Center, University of Southern Mississippi, Long Beach, Mississippi. Rooms have been reserved for the meeting, April 29 - May 2, \$16.00 per person. Single and double rooms are available. Breakfast and lunch both Monday and Tuesday will be served in the Hardy Hall cafeteria. Dinner both Sunday and Monday is "on your own."

**sma smasma sma sma sma sma sma sma sma sma sma sma sma sma sma sma sma**

SOCIETY OF MISSISSIPPI ARCHIVISTS  
Sixth Annual Meeting, April 30 - May 1, 1984  
Registration Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Institution	Telephone
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Preregistration ( ) \$20.00  
(Must be received by  
April 25)

Registration	( )	25.00
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Sunday	( )	16.00
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Monday	( )	16.00
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Monday Breakfast	( )	3.25
Monday Lunch	( )	5.05
Tuesday Breakfast	( )	3.25
Tuesday Lunch	( )	5.05

Total.....\$

Make checks payable to The Society of Mississippi Archivists.  
Pre-registration forms and checks should be sent to Linda Overman, Chair,  
SMA Program Committee, P. O. Box 1151, Jackson, Miss. 39205.



## REPORT OF ARCHIVAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE SURVEY

In order to identify topics of most interest to SMA members and to solicit ideas about how the Society could best reach out to the general public, the Archival Education Committee of SMA recently distributed a questionnaire to all SMA members. Slightly more than fifty responses have been received.

The suggestions were very informative. Topics of most interest to non-practicing archivists were (1) care of family photographs and memorabilia, (2) use of archives for genealogical research, (3) where and how to locate specific related collections, and (4) the status of local records in Mississippi. The four topics of most interest to practicing archivists were (1) arrangement and care of photographs, (2) how to locate related materials in Mississippi, (3) assisting historical preservationists using archival materials, and (4) grantsmanship and funding sources for archival activities. This information will be used to plan future workshops and annual meeting programs.

As expected, the topics suggested as being of most interest to the general public mirror those of SMA members: use of archives for genealogical research, how to care for and preserve family papers, and a general overview of archival work and holdings in Mississippi. Sixteen SMA members volunteered to help present programs in their community.

In order to better inform Mississippians about these topics, the committee has begun working on the production of a videotape program that will describe the general archival procedures and the archival and manuscript resources in the state. General care and preservation of documentary materials and genealogical research using archival materials will be touched upon as well. It is hoped that the production will be available by early 1985 for showing to some of the many organizations interested in the preservation and use of our documentary heritage. As identified by the questionnaires, those groups likely to be most receptive include local and state genealogical and historical societies, chancery and circuit clerks, historic preservationists, bar associations and professional organizations of librarians and curators. SMA members mentioned more than twenty such organizations of which they are members.

Many thanks to all who responded. If anyone is interested in working on the videotape production during the coming months, please contact either Bill Hanna or me. And stray questionnaires are always welcome.

Julia Young, Chair  
Archival Education Committee



## LETTERS

Coalition to Save our Documentary Heritage  
George Washington University  
Washington, D. C. 20052

February 15, 1984

Dear Friends of Our Documentary Heritage,

First, the good news for those who are not already aware of it: On November 30, 1983, the President signed the NHPRC reauthorization act. This act (H. R. 2196) was finally passed by both Houses on November 18 during the final hours of the last session. The act reauthorizes the grants program at the \$4 million level for FY84 and FY85 and the \$5 million level for FY86, FY87 and FY88. Our special thanks for key support on this issue should go to Representatives Jack Brooks, Glenn English, Thomas Kindess and Frank Horton and to Senators Mark Hatfield, Thomas Eagleton and Charles McC. Mathis. In addition, the grants program is currently funded in the FY84 continuing resolution at the full \$4 million level.

Congress returned to town last month, and the FY85 budget has been sent to Capitol Hill. Although you may have read a good deal about this budget in the press, it is doubtful that the figures for NARS and the NHPRC were included. Unfortunately, the reauthorization was ignored by the Administration and the NHPRC grants program is again "zeroed out." So, for the fourth year in a row, it will be necessary to make the case for the grants program in Congress. Letters, requesting that full authorized funding (\$4 million) be appropriated for the NHPRC grants program, should be sent to your Senators and Representatives with copies to Rep. Edward Roybal, chairman, and Rep. Clarence Miller, ranking minority member, House Subcommittee on Treasury, Postal Service and General Government Appropriations; and to Senator James Abdnor, chairman, and Sen. Dennis DeConcini, ranking minority member, Senate Subcommittee on Treasury, Postal Service and General Government Appropriations. The arguments in favor of this appropriation remain the same as in the past, and letters should also request that the funds for the grants program be added to and not taken from the funds budgeted for NARS.

The NARS FY85 budget request is for \$92.3, an increase of about \$5.5 million over the FY84 appropriated level. Even with this increase NARS will probably have to reduce programs across the board because of a large upward adjustment in SLUC (rent, utilities and building operations) and other increased costs. The original NARS proposal to GSA requested \$103.9 million (including \$3 million for the grants program), but although GSA approved several programs proposed in this request, the funds for these programs were either not budgeted for or the figures were severely reduced. The Administration's budget request will do nothing to help NARS regain any of the ground lost during the past three years, particularly in the area of staffing. NARS has not hired a new class of archivist trainees in 5 years, and many members of the last class were lost in the 1982 RIF (reduction in force). The



problem becomes more pressing with each passing year. The above-mentioned appropriations subcommittee members should also be contacted on this issue.

Finally, NOW is the time to press for independence for the National Archives. S. 905 as been passed by the Senate Government Affairs Committee, and we are hoping for floor action soon. House action on H. R. 3987 should be the focus of our attention now. But because this is an election year, the time is short. We must put our full energies into gathering support for this legislation and push for passage this session. Inaction on our part could mean that the bill would die during this Congress, which would necessitate starting all over again the process of educating members of Congress on the legislation. We must not let this happen. Please take the time to write your Representative urging support for H. R. 3987. Send copies of your letters to Rep. Jack Brooks, Chairman, House Government Operations Committee and Rep. Frank Horton, the ranking minority member of this committee. And please encourage other members of organizations to which you belong, colleagues, and others to do the same.

Sincerely,

The members of the Coalition Steering Committee

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\* For those readers who have not yet noticed, this issue of The \*  
\* Primary Source is being ghost-edited. h t holmes submitted his \*  
\* resignation as editor at the November Executive Council meeting, \*  
\* agreeing to continue to serve as an assistant editor. President \*  
\* William Hanna has appointed Dr. Lynn Mueller, Special Collections \*  
\* Reference Librarian, Mitchell Memorial Library, Mississippi State \*  
\* University as the next editor. Dr. Mueller will assume her re- \*  
\* sponsibilities beginning with the next issue, May 1984. All mem- \*  
\* bers are reminded that the deadline for contributions for that \*  
\* are due by April 30. \*  
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#### EXTRAPOLATIONS OF AN EX-EDITOR

If you find a mistake in this newsletter, please consider that it was put there on purpose. I try to publish something for everyone, including those who are always looking for mistakes.

--Deborah Nygren, Ex-Editor

ACCESS

Society of Alabama Archivists



THE AMITE COUNTY RECORDS: A CAUTIONARY TALE  
Madel Morgan, Director  
Archives and Library Division  
Miss. Department of Archives and History

In recent years, there have been several instances of county records being offered for sale. As a rule, these have been single items or small collections, usually probate papers. However, when a dealer in Texas wrote to an employee of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History stating that he was "liquidating a large collection of Amite County, Mississippi, slave-related documents, 1814-1861," the Department immediately contacted the State Attorney General's office which took the matter under advisement.

We then had reports from Georgia and from Massachusetts of Amite County records being offered for sale and, in both instances, advised our informers that the State Attorney General was studying the legal responsibility of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History toward these county records. Late, Melvin Bruss from Gloster notified us that court papers from the Amite County Court House had been advertised for sale in the McComb area by a dealer from Texas and that people in Pike and Amite counties were disturbed about the matter. We contacted the circuit clerk of Amite County, Mrs. Ruth Dickson, to see what she knew about the records. Mrs. Dickson was gravely concerned. She had determined that the records were removed from the court house about thirty years ago without the approval of the Board of Supervisors or the Department of Archives and History. Reinforced by an oral opinion which we sought from the office of the State Attorney General, we advised Mrs. Dickson to see if the Board of Supervisors (which was to meet on the day we talked) would instruct the County Attorney to issue a writ of replevin for the return of the papers. In such cases, if the papers are not returned, the Board can then file suit against the individual or firm in possession.

The final result of all of this was that the Amite County Historical Society and the county board of supervisors elected to purchase the papers rather than enter into expensive litigation to enforce the law, and the papers offered for sale by a resident of Texas are now back in the county courthouse of origin.

A review of this collection reveals that the papers from sixty-five court cases, mostly law suits are included, dating from 1823 to 1862. Earlier papers, dated 1814 and 1820, had been sold before Amite County gained (re-gained) possession.

This case points up the need for a better way to maintain non-current county records so as to make them more secure and more accessible. Old documents such as these are a rich source for social history and should be maintained permanently for the benefit of researchers. The laws pertaining to the retention and disposal of such records are difficult to interpret, especially as they pertain to records dating back more than fifty years. We earnestly hope that a local government records study commission, the creation of which has been recommended by state legislative Senate Bill 2300, will be established to address the entire array of problems pertaining to the maintenance of county records, not the least of which is their falling into the hands of dealers who peddle them in the marketplace.



SENATE BILL 2300

AN ACT TO CREATE THE ADVISORY COMMISSION ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT RECORDS; TO PROVIDE FOR A STUDY AND RECOMMENDATIONS RELATING TO THE PROBLEMS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WHO CREATE, USE, MANAGE AND PRESERVE RECORDS; TO PROVIDE FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF THE MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY COMMISSION; TO PROVIDE FOR THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF SUCH ADVISORY COMMISSION; TO PROVIDE FOR A REPORT OF ITS FINDINGS TO THE 1986 REGULAR SESSION OF THE LEGISLATURE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

SECTION 1. There is hereby created by this act a temporary state advisory commission of twenty-four (24) members to be known as the Advisory Commission on Local Government Records, hereinafter referred to as the advisory commission, to be selected as follows:

(a) From a list of nominations provided by each of the following twelve organizations, the Governor of the State of Mississippi shall appoint one (1) member to represent each organization: The Mississippi Chancery Clerks' Association, the Mississippi Association of Supervisors, the Mississippi Circuit Clerks' Association, the Mississippi Assessors/Collectors' Association, the Mississippi Sheriffs' Association, the Mississippi Municipal Association, the Mississippi City Clerks and Tax Assessors' Association, the Mississippi Association of School Superintendents, the Mississippi Bar Association, the Mississippi Historical Society, the Society of Mississippi Archivists, and the State Historical Records Advisory Board.

(b) The Governor of the State of Mississippi shall also appoint five (5) citizens from the state at large.

(c) The Lieutenant Governor of the State of Mississippi shall appoint one (1) member from the County Affairs Committee and one (1) member from the Municipalities Committee of the Senate of the State of Mississippi.

(d) The Speaker of the House of Representatives of the State of Mississippi shall appoint one (1) member from the County Affairs Committee and one (1) member from the Municipalities Committee of the House of Representatives of the State of Mississippi.

(e) The Chairman of the State Tax Commission shall appoint one (1) representative who shall be an employee of the State Tax Commission.

(f) The Auditor of Public Accounts shall appoint one (1) representative who shall be an employee of the State Department of Audit.

(g) The Director of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History shall serve as an ex officio member of the advisory commission.



Within thirty (30) days from and after adoption of this act, the Director of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History shall notify those organizations allotted representation on the advisory commission and request of them a list of nominees for consideration by the Governor. Within thirty (30) days thereafter, the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Chairman of the State Tax Commission and the Auditor of Public Accounts shall submit in writing to the Director of the Department of Archives and History the names and addresses of their respective appointees, and in the event that such selections and appointments are not made within said period of time, then the Governor of the State of Mississippi shall be given the right to make such selections and appointments. In the event of a vacancy in any membership on the advisory commission, such vacancy shall be filled by appointment by the official who made the original appointment of the member whose position was vacated. Failure of such appointment to be made shall not affect the power or authority of the advisory commission, unless six (6) or more vacancies exist. If an appointed member fails to attend five (5) consecutive meetings, his post shall be automatically vacated and the appointing authority shall fill the vacancy as hereinabove provided.

The advisory commission hereby created shall cease to exist at the sine die adjournment of the Regular Session of the Legislature of Mississippi in the year 1986. Upon dissolution of the advisory commission, the Mississippi Department of Archives and History shall assume title and physical custody of the records of the advisory commission, in accordance with Section 25-59-21 et seq., Mississippi Code of 1972.

Section 2. Within fourteen (14) days after the submission of the appointments to the Director of the Archives and History Department, the director shall give notice in writing to each of such appointees of an organization meeting to be held at a place in the City of Jackson within not less than ten (10) days and not more than twenty-one (21) days from the time of such notice. At its organizational meeting, the Director of the Department of Archives and History shall serve as temporary chairman, and the advisory commission shall, at such meeting or as soon thereafter as practicable, select from its membership a chairman, vice-chairman, secretary and such other officers as it considers necessary, who shall thereafter serve in such positions.

A majority of the membership of the advisory commission shall constitute a quorum at all meetings. In the selection of its officers, adoption of resolutions and reports, an affirmative vote of the majority of the membership shall be required. Meetings of the advisory commission may be called at any time upon written notice by the chairman mailed not less than five (5) days before the date of such meeting or by written notice signed by a majority of the membership mailed not less than five (5) days prior to the date of such meetings. Meetings may also be held at any time, without notice, upon unanimous consent of the membership. Meetings duly called may be recessed or adjourned to such date and time as a majority of the membership present and voting may determine. The advisory commission may adopt, by majority vote of membership, such other rules of procedure for the conduct of its proceedings or keeping records thereof as it shall deem



necessary or advisable.

Section 3. The duties, powers and responsibilities of the advisory commission shall be as follows:

(a) To review in depth and study the present laws and regulations of the State of Mississippi relating to the creation, usage, management, retention and preservation of local government records.

(b) To investigate and study, with a view toward implementing the recommendations therein specified, the recently completed State Historical Records Assessment and Reporting Project Report, prepared by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History and the State Historical Records Advisory Board, and to investigate and study any alternative methods, programs and systems that will provide for the efficient archival records management of local government records.

(c) To employ and compensate such staff personnel as may be required for the work of the advisory commission and provide such personnel with suitable office space, and to receive assistance and cooperation from any existing agency, commission, board or political subdivision of the state having any data or information not privileged or confidential, and to utilize the resources and personnel of such agencies in the carrying out of its objectives.

(d) To contract with independent consultants and consulting agencies for the purpose of making studies and reports to the advisory commission on methods, plans and programs for the efficient archival records management of local government records.

(e) To receive such financial and other assistance from any source and as may be made available for the purposes of the advisory commission from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission or any other agency of the federal government.

(f) To utilize the services of the Senate Legislative Services Offices and the House of Representatives Drafting Office in the preparation of any proposed or suggested legislation, as well as the services of the office of the Attorney General.

(g) To prepare, publish and present a report to the Legislature, at its 1986 Regular Session, concerning its findings, recommendations and suggested legislation relating to the efficient archival records management of local government records.

Section 4. The members of the advisory commission shall be compensated at the rate of Twenty-two Dollars and Fifty Cents (\$22.50) per diem for each day of attendance at meetings of the advisory commission and the chairman, or any member who is assigned specific duties by the advisory commission, shall be compensated for each day devoted to such duties, at the same per diem rate, upon approval by the advisory commission; and the members shall be reimbursed for travel and actual expenses incurred in the performance of their duties as provided



in section 25-3-41, Mississippi Code of 1972, for officers and employees of the state; provided, however, that no member of the Legislature shall receive any per diem compensation for attending meetings of the advisory commission held during a session of the Legislature, and no full-time officer or employee of the state shall receive any per diem compensation as a member of the advisory commission. No advisory commission member shall incur per diem, travel or other expenses unless previously authorized by a vote at a meeting of the advisory commission, which actions shall be recorded in the official minutes of said meeting.

Section 5. On or before January 15, 1986, the advisory commission shall prepare and submit a report to the Legislature setting forth the following matters:

(a) Any of its findings and recommendations relating to suggested changes, if any, in the existing laws and regulations of the state relating to the creation, usage, management, retention and preservation of local government records;

(b) Its recommendations, if any, relating to new, different or other methods or laws desirable for the efficient archival management of local government records;

(c) Such other matters as the advisory commission may deem to be relevant and helpful to the Legislature in a consideration of its recommendations.

Section 6. The advisory commission is authorized and empowered to receive and expend any funds appropriated to it by the Legislature and any funds received by it from any other source in carrying out the objectives and purposes of this act. The Mississippi Department of Archives and History shall be responsible for maintaining records pertaining to the commission's expenditure of funds.

Section 7. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after July 1, 1984.

NB: At press time (March 7), State Historical Records Coordinator Elbert R. Hilliard reported that the indications were that S. B. 2300 would not be reported out of committee by the March 9 deadline, resulting in the failure of the bill again this year. Mr. Hilliard pointed out that while support for the study commission was increasing, the fact that the commission would have required new appropriations was the reason that no committee action was taken this session. Estimated costs for the commission were \$82,000.00.





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"... no other profession calls for more various talents."

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

1983 - 1984 MEMBERSHIP YEAR

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Student \$3.00      \_\_\_ Regular \$7.50      \_\_\_ Institution \$15.00

\_\_\_ Patron \$25.00 or more

Please make checks payable to The Society of Mississippi Archivists and send this form and dues to Chairman, Membership Committee, The Society of Mississippi Archivists, P. O. Box 1151, Jackson, Mississippi 39205. The membership year runs from October 1 to September 30. Current members will receive a membership renewal notice in September.